 **LLAMA RENDEZVOUS AT THE BEACH**

**March 31, April 1 – 2 2023**

# Your opportunity for a truly unique experience for you and your llama.

Bring your llama to the ocean, play on the beach, stay in a secluded camping area beneath towering trees along the Cape Fear River, and have access to miles of hiking trails that traverse a variety of distinct habitats—not to mention the presence of the Venus flytrap, one of the world's most unique carnivorous plants. This amazing event is located in an area steeped in both history and natural diversity. Within walking distance from the campgrounds is a visitor's center with exhibits depicting the wonders of the local environment.

#### Carolina Beach State Park is on Pleasure Island just below Wilmington NC. Ten (10) trailer/tent campsites located around loop A have been given special permission for 2 llamas and up to 6 people per campsite. Each site is equipped with a picnic table and grill or fire ring. Drinking water and restrooms with hot showers are located nearby. None have hook-ups (e.g. no electric). For navigation, the **Visitor center’ address is**

1010 State Park Road
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

GPS: [34.0472, -77.9066](https://goo.gl/maps/CWfA1g35PFNPreE48)

You make your requests by filling out the attached form and mailing or emailing it to Vicki Sundberg.

Vicki Sundberg

5550 Mills Trail SE

Bolivia, NC 28422

homesweethome\_3@yahoo.com

Spaces are filled on a first come, first served and based on when Vicki receives it. If several requests arrive in the mail on the same day, I will use the postmark. If timing is still equal, random draw will decide. Bottom line – the earlier you decide and take action, the better the chance you will not have to compete for a space. I will notify you of your campsite assignment about two weeks before. I need to match your vehicle sizes and access abilities to the sites. I’ll also request payment later. Don’t worry, the non-electric sites are $26/night\* and the Special permit fees and ferry costs will be divided among all.

\*As with everything else, the disclaimer is “Prices subject to change”

A flexible **SCHEDULE:** this is your VACATION. The following is just a suggestion which combines hiking, experiencing the ocean, learning about a unique coastal environ, and American history. Some kids have been able to get classroom credit through their reports on what they learned.

Traditionally, early Saturday morning we load up the llamas in as few trailers as possible to go down to **Fort Fisher State Park** at the opposite end of Pleasure Island where we have special permission to bring the llamas onto the beach. First, we hike the Marsh Trail, with its ocean marsh plants and find the old hangout of the Ft Fisher Hermit. From the Marsh Trail, we work our way back to the beach where we can take a dip in the ocean, play Llama Games, and take about a bazillion pictures. Without shade, we need to be vigilant of the temperatures and sun exposure (put sun screen, sun glasses, hat, cover up on your packing list).

After eating a bag lunch, we head down to the **NC Ferry** to go over the river for a trip to **Old Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson**. The ferry ride is always a huge hit – not only for our llama participants but also for everyone on the ferry. On the other side we take a short drive to Brunswick Town Historic District. The 2,250-acre district encompasses the ruins of colonial Brunswick Town, North Carolina, the Civil War-era Fort Anderson, St. Philip's Church Ruins, and the remains of Russellborough, the home of two colonial governors. And the staff LOVE llamas. This site closes at 5 PM and not open Sunday.

After a return trip on the ferry and back to the campgrounds, the difficult decision must be made as to which of the hundreds of local restaurants at Fun-loving and free-spirited,**Carolina Beach that also** offers live music and events, a vintage boardwalk and colorful characters around every corner. While May is not the peak of the tourist season, most retail facilities are open.

NOTE: Park gates are closed and locked at posted closing times for your protection – 8 PM in May. There will be no exiting or entering the gates after the closing time. All visitors who are not spending the night need to be out by closing time. If you leave the park and do not return before closing time, you will not be able to re-enter.

Sunday morning, we can revisit the BEACH. Adjacent to the Fort Fisher beach is the [**Fort Fisher State Historic Site**](https://kure-beach.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/listing/fort-fisher-state-historic-site/235/) to explore the South’s largest earthen fort and site of one of the most influential battle sites of the Civil War. The museum is closed on Sunday which then allows us to bring the llamas on their walkways. Like the beach, this site has little shade and the visit must be done before the heat of the day.

After lunch, checkout is 3 PM. But additional activities can be planned or people can head home after cleaning up their site and packing. Remember you will have your llamas loaded…

* The NC Aquarium next to Ft Fisher is open Sunday.
* On the other side of the river via the ferry is the quaint town of Southport with antique, craft and Christmas shops, a maritime museum, and restaurants. Southport has been a popular filming location for television and movies. The town can be seen in the television series *Dawson's Creek*, *Under the Dome*, *Revenge*, and *Matlock*, and in numerous movies, including *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, *Summer Catch*, *Domestic Disturbance*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, *A Walk to Remember* and *Safe Haven*.
* A Farm Tour visit to SundMist Pastures and her Fiber Ladies Loft.

**The Detail Stuff:**

CHECK IN: All the reservations for these sites have been made through Vicki. When you pull into the park, the signs will say to go down to the marina for campground check-in. That can get crowded with boaters, hikers, and just park visitors. So, you privileged guests can come directly to the camp grounds. BUT I will need your tag numbers on your tow vehicle and any other motorized vehicle you bring. I will be there with your passes for each vehicle, help you find your site and answer your questions.

Visitors must be 18 years or older to reserve a campsite, and there must be at least one adult 18 years or older present at the campsite throughout the duration of the stay.

Fires are permitted only in designated fireplaces or personal grills unless a burn ban is in effect. DO NOT BRING FIREWOOD. Transporting firewood can spread diseases or carry a tree killing insect. Gathering or cutting of trees, branches shrubs, twigs etc. is prohibited. Firewood is available at the Marina shop.

FOOD: Immediately outside of the park entrance is a Food Lion to stock up your supplies. Store food in coolers and keep in your vehicle. Do not store food in your tent. Do not feed wildlife. In previous years, when the gate opened at 8 am, some folks dashed over to the local bakeries (one next to the Food Lion and another across the street). Restaurants are plentiful and carry out is possible.

LLAMA PARTICULARS: Llamas must always be under control – on a tether, lead or within an enclosure. Bring suitable, secure panels for the campground and best to keep them inside the trailers at night. The park’s native animals share their homes with us. Llamas should NOT eat the vegetation – bring spit masks if necessary for your sneaky munchers. Vigilant clean up at all times will keep our unique opportunity in good grace. Bring your scoops and rakes. Gather the beans into a plastic bag and dispose of them at the refuse disposal (which we pass every time we go anywhere) beside the campground’s exit loop. When we are out and about, bring plastic bags. Consider bringing a cat litter scoop – they work great in the sand and pretty much everywhere we will visit has sandy soil. And for some reason, the llamas cannot resist poopin’ – repeatedly - on the beach!

A note about hay: if you find you don’t have space to bring it with you, please let me know and I’ll get some locally.

BUGS AND PLANTS: Bring fly and mosquito spray – for both you and your llamas. Ticks and chiggers are found in the park. Venomous snakes are common to this region – but they don’t like you anymore than you like them. We will likely see alligators this weekend – but not at the campgrounds. Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are in the park. Stay on trails and bring a proper first aid kit, just in case.

WEATHER: Not under my control and you are camping so watch the weather forecast and come prepared. This event was changed from fall to spring due to the fall hurricane and rain frequency – but May is still technically in hurricane season – but usually May is gorgeous.

Month of May weather statistics

Average High: 75.8o F

Record High: 97o F

Average Low: 60o F

Record Low: 36o F

Average Precipitation: 3.44”

Average # Precipitation Days: 7.7

CANCELLATIONS: Since I am not asking for prepayment, please don’t hurt me if you cancel last minute. The Carolina Beach State park’s policy is that if they have to close the park for weather, emergency, etc. you will be refunded your money. Otherwise, no refund.

More information web links:

* Park Maps and Brochures:
	+  [Park map](https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/carolina-beach-state-park-map.pdf)
	+  [Campground map](https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/carolina-beach-state-park-campground-map.pdf)
	+  [Park fact sheet](https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/maps-and-brochures/carolina-beach-state-park-fact-sheet.pdf)
* NC Park Rules: [Park Rules | NC State Parks (ncparks.gov)](https://www.ncparks.gov/park-rules)
* Ft Fisher State Recreation Area: [Fort Fisher State Recreation Area | NC State Parks (ncparks.gov)](https://www.ncparks.gov/fort-fisher-state-recreation-area/home)
* Ft Fisher Ferry: [Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry - 2022 All You Need to Know BEFORE You Go (with Photos) - Tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g49552-d10385676-Reviews-Southport_Fort_Fisher_Ferry-Southport_North_Carolina.html)
* Old Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson: [Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson | NC Historic Sites](https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/brunswick-town-fort-anderson)
* Fort Fisher State Historic Site: [Fort Fisher State Historic Museum | Kure Beach History (wilmingtonandbeaches.com)](https://kure-beach.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/things-to-do/attractions-activities/history/)
* NC Aquarium: [Fort Fisher: NC Aquariums | Kure Beach, NC 28449](https://www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher)
* Southport NC: [Microsoft Bing Travel - Southport](https://www.bing.com/travel/place-information?q=southport+north+carolina&SID=53c18d56-b56b-fb6c-a7f1-b299e7c7a26b&FORM=IARRTH)

I’m **thinking** about making T-shirts or sun hats with the logo and year that is showing at the beginning. Anybody interested? Hat or t-shirt? Long or short sleeve? Emblem on front or back? What’s your opinion? How much would you spend for a customized hat or T? If a hat, broad fully-covered hat or ball cap? If T, short or long sleeved? Give me feedback.